(SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The number of candidates selected for Indian Administrative Service during the period from 1996 to 2000 is given below:—

1996 — 80
1997 — 76
1998 — 55
1999 — 55
2000 — 56

(b) The number of IAS officers who retired during the period from 1996 to 2000 is given below:—

1996 — 233
1997 — 222
1998 — 85
1999 — 25
2000 — 148

(c) During the financial year 1998-99 and 1999-2000, no retired I.A.S. officer has been re-appointed in the administrative services. However, one I.A.S. officer has been appointed on contract basis in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India w.e.f. 1.2.2001 until further orders after his retirement from Government service.

Steps to contain corruption

3744. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CVC has expressed that the existing provisions in the Prevention of Corruption Act are too week to contain corruption;

(b) if so, whether the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act would be stengthened to book the guilty;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to check corruption in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF

PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Central Vigilance Commissioner has not expressed the view that the existing provisions in the Prevention of Corruption Act are too weak to contain corruption though the need for enacting a separate legislation for forfeiture of property of corrupt public servants has been emphsised by him.

(d) The Government is fully alive to the need to eradicate corruption at all levels of public services. A three pronged strategy of Surveillance, Prevention and Punitive/Deterrent action is followed by the Government. Various Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings are responsible to ensure probity and integrity in their respective organisations. Recognising that an important aspect of this strategy is Preventive Vigilance, steps have been taken to ensure transparency in public administration and initiate measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizens' Charters, setting up of Facilitation Centres etc. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up. The punitive actions being taken under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 duly supported by various rules governing the service conditions of public servants, also acts as a deterrent against corruption. However, the drive against corruption in public services to check malpractices in administration is a continumig process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. Besides, some of the recent major initiatives taken by the Government include introduction of Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 in Lok Sabha to confer statutory status upon the Commission and Freedom of Information Bill, 2000 to bring greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Government etc.